

Disease.' Vomiting, too, was a constant symptom, and delirium was generally present at some period of the disease. The pulse varied, sometimes being but little accelerated, soft and intermittent, but generally quick, small, not hard and wiry, but weak and indicating rather prostration.

"There was but little disturbance of the bowels, and, usually, they responded readily enough to the action of cathartics. The tongue was moist, sometimes with a light brown coat upon it; sometimes almost normal in its appearance. Most of the cases complained of great soreness of the flesh, and all of those which proved fatal presented, in the course of the attack, the mottled appearance of the skin mentioned in the first case, but in none, except one, were there petechiæ. In one, a woman aged about 50, there were large livid-looking bullæ upon the feet.

"As far as I am able to recall the symptoms, spasmodic action of the muscles and opisthotonos did not exist to the extent they have been observed in other localities, although present to some extent in most of the cases."

Of the treatment Dr. P. has but little to say, none of the remedies he resorted to having led to satisfactory results.

Quinia produced no good effect, indeed he states it seemingly caused "a positive increase of the cerebral excitement."

"In one of the cases that recovered I treated by bleeding at the outset followed by a pretty free exhibition of opium combined with mercurials. The symptoms in this case were not so severe, however, as in the others. In the other case which recovered, the symptoms were slight, the left arm being somewhat affected, with some headache and nausea. Little or no medication was used in this case. Opium has been recommended with some degree of confidence by eminent practitioners, and is the only remedy to which any number of those who have treated concur in ascribing good effects."

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An Epidemic of Typhoid, Typhus, and Spotted Fever.—Dr. T. J. PEARCE, of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, states (*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, May, 1865) that residents of his place enjoyed during last summer and fall a remarkable immunity from all forms of fever. "In the month of October, however," he adds, "a soldier returned to his home in our town sick of typhoid fever. His case was well defined, of the enteric form, and confined him to his bed and room some six weeks.

"Before he had fairly recovered, his mother, a healthy woman, about forty years of age, was taken down with the same variety of disease, next a younger brother, and in quick succession other members of the family were attacked, and, finally, five of the same family were sick of typhoid fever within a few weeks from the recovery of the first case—none escaping but the father, a remarkably stout, healthy man.

"From this point of beginning, the disease spread to other families until the majority of the dwellings in that part of the village contained one or more cases of typhoid fever. Gradually it extended to other more distant neighbourhoods in town and country, and finally, this was our prevailing form of disease until in the following February, when it merged into, or gave place to several cases of the alarming disease known as Spotted Fever, which at the present writing, March 23d, has, I believe, subsided, leaving our community again reasonably free from disease.

"The disease, from its commencement to its close, selected its subjects alike from all classes of society. Ease and opulence gave no more immunity than squalor and poverty. The only preference it seemed to manifest was for women and children, there being very few adult males affected at any part of the season.

"The cases arranged themselves into three varieties, appearing to my mind at least, but separate links of the same chain of disease. First we had the well-defined typhoid fever of the enteric variety, next the well-marked typhus, and third, the spotted fever, which last form seemed but a rapid evolution of typhoid or typhus, produced by the same *materies morbi*, but of greater virulence or larger amount, and influenced in its manifestation by constitutional and predisposing differences. These different varieties were attended with all grades of

intensity, from the mildest grade of typhoid fever, in which the patient was scarcely sick enough to take his bed, to the gravest form of the same variety, in which the small and rapid pulse, the tympanitic abdomen, the frequent and involuntary alvine discharges attested the severity of the disease. The well-marked cases of typhus were few in number, compared with the first variety, but the same difference in intensity was manifested, and so of the last most fearful form, spotted fever. Like the cases of typhus, this last variety afforded us but few cases compared with the first, but it showed the same difference in grade. In some cases the patient complaining of but little more than loss of appetite, with pain in back portion of head and neck, with general soreness and uneasiness of body. In others again the disease would be ushered in with the usual chill, the surface soon becoming covered with petechial spots, and the organic nervous centres becoming so severely shocked by the specific cause that death would come to the little sufferer's relief before it had passed many hours or days in this alarming condition."

Large Doses of Tincture of Digitalis in Delirium Tremens.—Dr. S. BARRETT narrates (*Buffalo Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Jan. 1865) the following case of delirium tremens successfully treated by large doses of tincture of digitalis:—

"On the 22d of July last, I was called to see Dr. S. R., aged 35, of Stafford. He has drank to excess for several years—has hardly been sober for the past four or five years. I found him with all those hallucinations incident to such cases; had not slept for two nights or days; been taking opiates, morphia, and hyoscyamus with camphor, and some stimulants; pulse 130 per minute, weak and tremulous; great thirst and constant restlessness, eyes staring, incoherent talking, and constant effort to divest himself of all clothing; I attempted to quiet him by giving chloroform, but it threw him into spasms, with very difficult breathing. When he came fully under its influence, he turned black in the face, and ceased breathing, the heart ceased to beat, and he had every appearance of being dead. I turned him on his right side, and kept up artificial respiration for some minutes, when the action of the heart commenced, and he soon began to catch for breath, and in a little time revived, but as delirious as ever. I then gave him ice to eat pretty freely and tinct. digitalis \mathfrak{z} ss, which he took readily, and ordered him to have the same dose every four hours until he became quiet and slept. I left him to return the next day.

"23d. Visited him to-day at 12 M.; found the doctor quiet, 'clothed, and in his right mind;' he had slept about six hours, had taken \mathfrak{z} jss of the digitalis; pulse normal, skin moist, thirst gone. From this time he convalesced rapidly. Six days after he called to see me; appetite good; says he had never felt better in his life.

"The few cases of this disease which have come under my care the past two years have been treated with this remedy, and the results have been to me every way satisfactory. That it is a specific I do not claim, only that it is worthy of trial."

Influence of Alcohol upon Animal Temperature.—Dr. J. S. LOMBARD, of Boston, records (*New York Med. Journ.*, June, 1865) some experiments undertaken by him with a view to determine the extent to which alcohol is capable of influencing the temperature of the body.

The results, if correct, of these experiments, "go to prove, first, that alcohol possesses the power of increasing the temperature of the body; and second, that so long as the quantity taken be not excessive, this increase is not followed by any depression below the temperature existing before taking the alcohol. If, however, the dose of liquor be excessive, there will ensue a greater or less depression of all the functions, and with the rest, that of producing heat may suffer.

"But although the ingestion of alcohol causes a rise of temperature, yet its power in this respect is, so far as I can judge from my experiments, comparatively feeble to that exercised by muscular exertion, for I have almost invariably found that a very few moments' active exertion produces a considerably greater effect on the temperature of the body, than a large amount of alcohol.